



MR. Y2000

Email questions to: c5dan@c5registry.com with "Mr. Y2000" in subject line

Q: Since I purchased my 2009 Jetstream Blue Z06 I have noticed a haze in the headlamps at night. You can't see it during the day, but at night with the lights on, the lens of the headlamp is not as clear. Is this caused from moisture that gets in it and do they need to be replaced?

Mr. Y2000: I have discussed the moisture in the headlamps before so I won't dwell on that; other than to say that unless there is enough water to support a small gold fish, I wouldn't worry about it, nor would I replace them. You see, the haze or cloudiness some owners have reported is a reflective coating installed by the lamp manufacturer. The manufacturer coats the lens on the inside before they are assembled to help direct the light so they act as a headlamp beam rather than a 200 watt light bulb.

For those that have driven or owned a fourth or fifth generation Corvette with the pop up headlamps, the C6 lights are noticeably better in the amount of light that is projected out in front of the vette, and you don't have to worry about the headlamps not popping up as your vette gets older.

One more word on headlamps, the high intensity lamps put out a tremendous amount of heat. The lens is all part of a cooling design to bleed off the heat. *A Word of Caution:* When the lens is covered with anything, including those advertised clear chip protector plastics, it will reduce the lamps ability to cool. When the lamp is overheated, small stress cracks will start to appear over the lens. As most of you know, the lens is not sold separately. So in order to replace

a cracked lens you are looking at a \$1,000 expense per side.

Q: I have the five-spoke chrome wheels and they appear to have dark clouding on some parts of them. I have tried several products to clean them, but the dark cloud won't come off. What can I use to get them back to the original shiny chrome?



Mr. Y2000: *Dear Lost Your Shine:* Since I don't know how you take care of your wheels in the first place, it is really difficult to know what you are seeing. It sounds like you may have used a wheel cleaner that uses a mild acid solution to help melt away the brake and road grime. If you have been using a wheel cleaner, then you need to check the bottle. If you find the words **hydrofluoric acid** or **oxalic acid**, then the chrome is most likely stained. Both of these acids are known to stain chrome and it actually will turn the shiny chrome to a dark or milky appearance. If you walked around the car and sprayed it on your wheels and then went back around with a hose to wash it off, it was most likely on too long and the damage was done.

A good rule of thumb is if the bottle advises to avoid contact with painted surfaces, then you most likely should not spray it on chrome either. There

is one exception to this and it is a cleaner that GM released specifically for chrome. The part number is **1052929** (for our Canadian friends it is **10953202**). This cleaner has a mild phosphoric acid that does a reasonably good job. Personally, all I use is a mixture of simple green and water and a soft brush. It takes a little longer, but I don't want to have to replace the chrome wheels on my vette. Whatever you decide to use, make sure you use plenty of clean water to flush the cleaner off the wheels!

Also, take note that most of the calipers on the Corvette have a coating. Some are painted, some are anodized, and a few are powder coated; whatever they are, the strong wheel cleaners will stain those as well. GM has put out a **Bulletin 00-03-10-002** that describes staining and pitting of chrome and aluminum wheels. If you have any questions, stop by and see your local Chevrolet Dealer, your wheels may be covered under the warranty. They can pull up the bulletin and see if your wheels are stained or if there is something else going on.

Q: I've seen in this column before where you have mentioned a GM Bulletin. Is there a way I can get my hands on a copy of a bulletin that you referenced without going to the dealership? My dealership is like 45 miles away and I just don't get there that often and when I do, I never remember to ask for a bulletin.

Mr. Y2000: Great question, complicated answer! *I will have this answer for you in the next Official C5/C6 Registry magazine Summer 2010 issue.*